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# Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 11

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## Yellowstone Pipe Line Co. Seeks Special Use Permit For Route Across Lolo N.F.

By Nikki Seifert, Lolo National Forest SO, Missoula, MT.

In 1995 the Yellowstone Pipe Line Co. (YPL) lost its lease to a right-of-way across the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana. YPL and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were unable to reach agreement on the terms for renewal of the pipeline right-of-way.

Without the right-of-way lease, YPL was left with a major gap in the 664-mile pipeline that extends from Billings, MT, to Moses Lake, Washington. In an effort to reconnect the pipeline, YPL submitted an application to the Forest Service in August of 1996 for a special-use permit to build a rerouted pipeline section across the Lolo National Forest. The proposed section, about 70 miles long, would run from Missoula to Plains, Montana, would cost \$30 to \$40 million.

The YPL's proposed route is controversial, in part, because under Montana law YPL can exercise eminent domain in crossing private lands. If the Forest Service permits the pipeline to cross the National Forest, then YPL may be able to exercise the power of eminent domain and cross private lands. That, combined with YPL's spill record over its 43-year history, flooding that has exposed some of the pipeline, and the pipeline's proximity to natural resources, have made the pipeline a much-debated and controversial subject.

"Scoping" the YPL request for a special-use permit began in February. In the past

eight months, the Forest Service has received nearly 500 comments at public meetings, in letters and in phone calls about the proposal.

Two rounds of public scoping meetings were held in April and June in local communities including Frenchtown, Missoula, Plains, Superior, Alberton, St. Regis, Thompson Falls and Wallace. Additional informational meetings will be held the second week of each month until the release of the draft EIS in April of 1998.

Aspen Environmental Group, independent EIS contractors hired by the Forest Service, are conducting scoping, analyzing environmental effects and preparing the EIS. In drafting the EIS, the contractor will study potential effects of the proposal on public safety, water, air, biological resources, air quality, noise, and surrounding communities.

The Regional Forester will make a decision on the Yellowstone Pipeline Co. request for a special use permit after the public reviews the draft EIS. The Environmental Impact Statement will analyze environmental effects of the alternatives, including the "No Action" alternative.

Originally, YPL proposed consideration of three proposed routes from Missoula to Plains. YPL recently settled on the Ninemile Valley East route as the company's proposed route.

After the draft Environmental Impact

Statement is released in July of 1998, the public will have a 45-day formal comment period to advise the Forest Service about their concerns and preferred alternative. The final EIS and decision are scheduled for November 1998.

YPL has held a special-use permit since 1954 for 30 miles of right-of-way on the Helena, Lolo and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. In December, 1995, the permit for these lands was renewed for three years to allow for an environmental analysis. Before a long-term renewal of this permit is issued, the Forest Service will determine if new terms and conditions are required to protect the public and the environment.

More information is available on the project website to those who have access to the internet: [WWW.aspeneg.com/YPL-EIS](http://WWW.aspeneg.com/YPL-EIS)

The public can visit project libraries at Missoula (city-country library), Alberton (Mountain Valley Book Store), Plains (public library), Wallace (public library), Frenchtown (school district administration building), Superior (Mineral County public library), Thompson Falls (library), Kellogg (public library) and the library at the Aspen Environmental Group at 415 N. Higgins, Missoula, to review information Aspen will use to prepare the EIS.

Aspen is currently screening an alternate route (Missoula Valley North Alternative) between Missoula and Huson. The route follows the hills north of Missoula and Huson. The route follows the hills north of Missoula Valley to avoid the Missoula aquifer. Once the screening analysis is complete, the Forest Service will decide whether to consider this alternative in detail. **If you have questions or comments about the project, telephone Terry Egenhoff, Lolo National Forest, SO, Missoula, MT. (406) 329-3833.**



## A Note From Dale

Starting a new job is always a little hectic. There is the upheaval that comes with moving: finding a new house, moving family and belongings. There is also the challenge of getting acquainted with new issues, new ways of doing business.

I really loved Ogden and the employees of the Intermountain Region. It is always hard to leave a place you had planned to stay awhile.

But I also have to say that coming to the Northern Region is a bit like coming home. I've spent 20 years of my Forest Service career in the Northern Region. I've had assignments on the Clearwater, the Flathead, the Lolo, the St. Joe (now the Panhandle), and in the regional office. I've worked at assignments that have ranged from District Ranger, planning staff, and Deputy Forest Supervisor. My family grew up in the Northern Region. My children went to school in Missoula and graduated from the University of Montana. I have many friends here, friends who remain near and dear to both me and my wife, Carma.

The Northern Region is a very special place, full of variety in its range of resources. The western edge is blanketed with forests that have a lot in common with the big tim-

ber of the Pacific Northwest. The northern Rockies harbor some of the wildest and most spectacular scenery anywhere in the National Forest System. The open prairies and National Grasslands display a vast expanse that is hard to rival. The Northern Region is truly an awesome and magnificent place.

We have many challenges ahead of us. I've been asked what my priorities are for the next six months or so. They are really pretty straight forward and a continuation of the priorities you have already been working on. First, we need to get our organization settled. The region's Staff Directors and Forest Supervisors have been working hard to match the size of the region's workforce with our budgets. We need to get this completed so employees know where they fit. It is hard to be productive and feel good about your work when we are constantly discussing organizational changes. Secondly, we must work to get our financial house in order. There was a time when only the fiscal and accounting folks needed to understand budgets. Fiscal accountability is everyone's job; our credibility with Congress depends on it. Third, we must get on top of our civil rights job. By that I mean we need to have a diverse work force where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. People should feel good about working for the Forest Service.

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of working with local communities. I know the region has many fine examples of collaborative stewardship at the local community level; this needs to become a normal way of doing business.

I hope, also, in the next few months to visit as many Forests and staffs as possible. I want to see, first-hand, the fine work that is being done. I'm looking forward to being here and working together with all of you.

Finally, I wanted to take a moment to wish you a happy Holiday. This is a special time of year to spend with family and loved ones. I'm very much looking forward to again being part of the Northern Region family.



Dale Bosworth

*Dale*

## New Visitor Center At Beartooth Ranger Station

By Tom Highburger, Resource Assistant,  
Beartooth RD, Red Lodge, MT, Custer NF.

The newly-constructed visitor information center is now open to serve visitors at the Beartooth Ranger Station, Red Lodge, MT, Custer NF.

The expanded office area provides ample space to receive visitors so that they can relax in a comfortable setting while they obtain information without being cramped into the district administrative office.

Construction of the 700-square-foot addition was completed late in the spring of 1997. It includes a new visitor reception area, a waiting room, a small interpretive display area and restrooms accessible to people with disabilities.

The expansion of the ranger station was proposed in 1991, to coincide with other planned visitor improvements along the Beartooth Scenic Byway. Rehabilitation of

the Visita Point Scenic Overlook on the Beartooth Byway was completed three years ago when the Montana portion of the highway was reconstructed. The visitor center and the overlook complement each other in serving visitors to the area.

Future plans call for the development of a permanent interpretive display that highlights the natural, historic, and recreational attributes of the Beartooth Corridor. The Forest Service plans to sponsor a Chamber of Commerce "After Hours" function to introduce the new facility to the public.

For more information about the Beartooth's new visitor center, telephone Babete Anderson, visitor information specialist, at the Ranger Station (406) 446-2103.



THE NEW VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER addition and the Beartooth RS, Red Lodge, MT, Custer National Forest.

Photo by Tom Highburger.



BEFORE ADDITION to the Beartooth Ranger Station.



## Mineral Leasing

# Tracking Advances At Geofest 1997

By Barb Plattes, RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage and Wilderness.

Recently R-1 formed a partnership with R-4 for the development of a new mineral leasing file (MLF) ORACLE database for the IBM computer system.

Mineral Land Law Examiners Mary Ann Spindler, R-4, and Barb Plattes, R-1, presented a poster and workshop session in September at the National Minerals & Geology Workshop, "Geofest '97", in Denver on the two regions' recent advances in the computer partnership. The design, screens, tables and reports were shown, reviewed and discussed at the workshop.

Gayle Yamasaki, R-1 computer system analyst, is developing the mineral leasing tracking database. It was well received and may be adopted by other Forest Service regions now moving off DG Infos II onto IBM.

MLF was first designed to track the Region's mineral leasing activities, allowing better decisions and planning by quick and accurate determination of the size, location, type, stage and significance of the mineral activities.

The new MLF ORACLE data base is being designed and developed with all of the present attributes, plus BLM sales data, tracking dollars from bonus bids and rental. It includes all mineral leases and permits and the potential to accommodate future needs, such as Geographic Information System (GIS).

Currently there are more than 2,160 active mineral lease records in R-1's Mineral Leasing File (MLF) ORACLE database. If you would like additional information about the new mineral lease tracking data base, telephone Plattes or Yamasaki, RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage & Minerals [(406) 329-3206 or (406) 329-3685].



**BARB PLATTES & GAYLE YAMASAKI,**  
RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage, and  
Wilderness.

# Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Serves as Catalyst In Managing Endangered Bear

By Jay Gore, National Grizzly Bear Coordinator,  
RO, Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries & Rare Plants,  
and Dianne Daley Laursen, Information & Education  
Specialist, Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.



In 1975 the grizzly bear was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Under this act, all Federal agencies were assigned responsibility for and directed to further the conservation of endangered and threatened species.

The governors of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming and the Assistant Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior signed a charter in 1983, creating the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) to increase cooperation and communication between agencies to meet the intent of the ESA in regard to the grizzly bear. During the past year, Regional Forester Hal Salwasser served as vice chair of the committee.

The IGBC serves as a coordinating mechanism for research, policy, planning, management, and funding needs for grizzly bear recovery. One of IGBC's key roles is to implement the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. This includes recovering populations and better management of habitat that leads ultimately to the removal of the grizzly bear from the threatened species list.

The committee's mission, spelled out in 1986, calls for IGBC "...to ensure recovery of viable grizzly bear populations and their habitats in areas of the western United States through interagency cooperation of policy, planning, management, and research."

IGBC membership includes top management officials from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; National Park Service; USDA Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; states of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Washington; and Canadian authorities from the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia.

Six recovery zones, initially identified in an earlier plan, are identified in the IGBC's 1993 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan. A series of management subcommittees carry out the IGBC mission in these geographic zones.

Subcommittees are responsible for the Bitterroot Ecosystem, the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem the North Cascade Ecosystem, the Selkirk-Cabinet/Yaak Ecosystem, the Yellowstone Ecosystem, and Information & Education, and Research.

Research and management activities have been intensified in the grizzly bear ecosystems since the passage of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST), created in the Yellowstone Area in 1974, prior to the passage of the Endangered Species Act, has facilitated and coordinated Federal activities in that ecosystem and worked with the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming in monitoring grizzly bear populations and population trends; studies of grizzly food habits; and documented the behavior of the bear's behavior in relation to humans and other wildlife species. As a result of the work of the team and the pioneering work of the Craigheads, the Yellowstone Area now has the longest, continuous databases for any grizzly bear population in the world. The work of the IGBC, the IGBST, the Yellowstone Ecosystem subcommittee, and the interagency cooperation embodied in these groups have resulted in developing the best available science, policy and management for successfully recovering of the grizzly bear population in the Greater Yellowstone. A major project ahead for the IGBC is the potential reintroduction of the grizzly bear into the Bitterroot Ecosystem. The grizzly has been gone from this huge, mostly designated wilderness, area for more than 40 years. Work is in progress now for developing better understanding and support for the reintroduction. If this can be achieved, the grizzly bear may once again roam the Bitterroots by the year 2000.

# Snag & Down Stem Stocking Standards for Flathead NF

By Laurie Lemieux, Supervisory Forest Technician, Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, Montana.

**S**nags and down stems are important considerations in ecosystem management. They are integral elements in the preparation, updating and revising of National Forest plans.

Administrators, managers and planners have long recognized snags and down stems as important National Forest resources. Snags supply nesting and feeding for birds. Down stems serve as cover and are a vital part of the habitat for sensitive species, such as pine marten, lynx and wolverine. As down stems decompose, they become organic material in long-time soil productivity. Snags and stems are, also, useful in evaluating wildfire potentials.

Most National Forest plans establish specific standards for stocking snags and down stems. The Upper Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Project Environmental Impact Statement proposes snag and down stem stocking levels for the 45 million acres covered by the EIS.

Dean Sirucek, soil scientist for the Flathead National Forest, has drawn on the Upper Columbia Basin EIS stocking level proposals and studied the existing levels of snags and down stems on the Forest as he designed stocking level standards for the

Flathead National Forest.

The Upper Columbia Basin EIS addresses snag/stem standards by using three Potential Vegetation Groups (PVG). Each includes several habitat groups. In this approach, a cold PVG in Montana's Swan Lake drainage and a cold PVG in Strawberry Creek in John Day, Oregon, are considered to have the same stocking levels, unless other data is available. In most cases, other data does not exist.

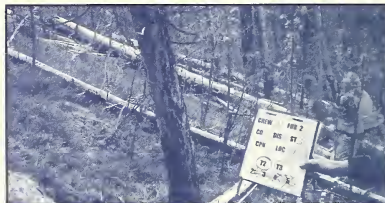
Forest plans utilize the same information on a Forest-wide level, assigning snag-down stem volumes by management areas. After each area is evaluated for biological potential in terms of snags and stems per acre, a decision is made as to how much of that potential will be targeted for Forest management direction.

Forest and Columbia Basin EIS approaches, in establishing stocking standards, may involve older, non-site-specific models in determining biological potentials. The data, in many cases, comes from areas that are geographically distant from locations where the information is applied. To improve the method, Sirucek used data gathered by the Forest Inventory and Analysis teams on the Flathead NF in 1993 and 1994 as part of a systematic random sample, giving equal weight to managed and unmanaged lands.

Separating out local data from unmanaged lands provides a better indicator of biological potential. The sample size, quality control of the data, and the resulting statistics optimized the reliability of the data set. Sirucek uses this local data to describe the number of snags and down stems for the various physical settings on the Flathead NF. He has evaluated the stocking level by eleven habitat type groups in Western Montana, instead of the three, broad groups used in the Columbia Basin EIS.

The R-1 Forest Inventory and Analysis Team has completed data collection on most National Forest in Montana and northern Idaho. Data will be available on all Northern Region National Forests in future years for use in establishing snag-down stem stocking level standards.

**Sirucek has refined the process and is available for assistance (telephone 406/758-5200) in determining local snag and down stem stock levels for other R-1 National Forests.**



**INVENTORY SERVICE CENTER FIELD CREW** conducting a fuel transect on the Flathead National Forest.

Photo by Trevor Case.

## Frontliners, Rangers Cooperate In Serving Wilderness Visitors

By Dixie L. Dies, Public Affairs Officer, Bitterroot National Forest SO, Hamilton, MT.

More than 1.3 million acres of the pristine Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness extends into the Bitterroot, Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests in Idaho and Montana. This wilderness area attracts visitors from all over the world.

Because of the size of the area, it is important that these three Forests work closely in coordinating their efforts to keep the wilderness pristine and wild.

Frontliners and wilderness rangers from all three of these National Forests met at Woods Cabin on the Bitterroot National Forest to discuss issues from their unique positions and experiences in responding to public inquiries about the wilderness.

Rangers talked specifically about their "own" part of the wilderness. Frontliners voiced their need for more information about the wilderness as a whole. One frontliner said, "When folks call, often times they don't have any idea how large the area really is, and they may want to hike from one side of the wilderness to the other. We need to have additional information about the entire wilderness, not just what happens to be on our district!"

During the day-and-a-half meeting, frontliners and rangers met new colleagues, listened to each other, came up with some solutions, and either refreshed or learned new educational skills like different types of stoves that can be used.

Frontliners and rangers are looking forward to future get-togethers to improve service to customers and provide the best stewardship for the wilderness.



**WILLIAM (BILL) GOSLIN**, wilderness technician, West Fork RD, Bitterroot NF, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, demonstrates the use of a wilderness stove.



**Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Frontliners and Rangers meeting at the Woods Cabin, Bitterroot NF.**

Photos by Maria Bott, zone wilderness technician, West Fork RD, Bitterroot NF.





# Non-Vascular Plants Featured at Workshops

## BOTANY WORKSHOP FEATURES MOSSES:

*Dr. Dale Vitt talks with participants at the non-vascular plants workshop in May at the University of Montana's Yellow Bay Biological Station on Flathead Lake.*

*Photo by Steve Shelly.*



*By Steve Shelly, Regional Botanist, RO Watershed, Wildlife, Fisheries and Rare Plants.*

In May and July, the Kootenai National Forest and the Northern Region Botany Program sponsored two workshops that focused on "non-vascular" plants. These are plants that do not have tissues that conduct water or nutrients as the more familiar flowering plants do. The workshops, organized by Toby Spribille and Mike Lolley, botanists for the Kootenai National Forest, were very well attended by more than 30 botanists and ecologists from Forest Service Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, universities and other organizations.

The first workshop, in May, at the University of Montana's Yellow Bay Biological Station on Flathead Lake, featured mosses. The two-day session was taught by two of the world's foremost authorities on mosses: Dr. Dale Vitt, University of Alberta, Canada, and Dr. Lars Soderstrom, University of Trondheim, Norway. Dr. Emma Pharo, University of Alberta, also assisted with the workshop. Participants learned about the ecology and taxonomy of these lesser known species and identified 66 different mosses on the Station grounds.

The workshop was followed by a field foray to Badrock Canyon, near Columbia

Falls. It was open to the public. Many members of the Montana Native Plant Society participated in the excursion.

This rocky area along the Flathead River supports a spectacularly rich moss flora. Approximately 100 species have been found there. Highlight of the excursion was the rediscovery of an extremely rare species, known worldwide only in this canyon. It had not been seen since its original discovery in the 1890s. *Grimmia brittoniae*, a distinctive blue-green moss, was found by Jim Shevock, R-5 Regional Botanist, on a rather inaccessible cliff. Only a few small patches were seen. It is one of the rarest plant species now known in the Northern Region!

The second workshop, in July, at the Priest River Experimental Forest in northern Idaho, focused on lichens. Instructors were Dr. Roger Rosentreter, Bureau of Land Management, Boise, Idaho, and Dr. Bruce McCune, Oregon State University, Corvallis. Both are experts on the lichens of the Pacific Northwest.

Their enthusiasm quickly infused the students, as they discussed the critical ecological role played by these plants. They are ac-

tually "symbiotic" organisms consisting of algae and fungi. During the five-day course, participants conducted an elevational transect to study the diversity of lichens in ten plots near the Station, scattered from low elevation riparian areas to the subalpine summit of nearby Mt. Gisborne. Approximately 90 different lichen species were documented in this study. Results will hopefully be published in a lichenology journal.

One of the major objectives of the two workshops was to foster an awareness of these lesser known, but ecologically critical, plant species. Studies of the diversity of the Northern Region's rich flora will be enhanced as the National Forests incorporate the stewardship of these unique resources into ecosystem management.

Some of the Northern Region's mosses and lichens are very rare and are likely to be included in future revisions of the R-1 sensitive plant list. For additional information about future Botany Program workshops, contact Steve Shelly by telephone (406) 329-3041; via DG S.Shelly:R01A; or IBM sshelly@r1.



## Short Notes

**RAVALLI-MISSOULA COUNTIES** Federal agencies contributed a total of \$49,600 in the 1997 Combined Federal Campaign, announced Co-Chair Joan Fleck and Mike Flanagan. This was 3% below the goal of \$51,000. Dee Dee Green, Regional Office, was the winner of the \$500 savings bond in the CFC drawing.

**ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL**, April 11-18, Missoula. For details, telephone (406) 728-9380.

**3rd ANNUAL REGIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY**, at University of Montana-Missoula. For details, telephone Donna Sheehy, RO Engineering, (406) 329-3312.

**STEPHEN K. KELLY**, Supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton, MT, announced November 14 his plans for retirement January 3. He has been supervisor of the Bitterroot NF since May 1992. A graduate of Colorado State University, he served in the Forest Service for 33 years. His first assignment was on the Willows (California) Ranger District, Mendocino National Forest. Kelley and his wife, Karen, plan to move to southwestern Colorado.



*Stephen K. Kelly*

**JUDY BOHRNSEN**, Support Services Specialist, Philipsburg (MT) Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, is retiring/taking the buyout and will be honored at a party Saturday, January 10, at the Georgetown Lake Lodge, 6:00 p.m. Dinner is a choice of steak or prawns at \$13.95. Please make your reservations by December 31. Telephone Heidi Hinkle, Philipsburg RD, (406) 859-3211; Heidi will also be taking donations for a gift. If you would like to tell a story or say a few words at the party, contact Bill Sprauer at the Philipsburg Ranger Station to get on the program. A book of letter is being assembled. Send your letter to Wendy LaBahn at the Philipsburg Ranger Station.

# Iowans-In-Idaho Teachers Receive Volunteer Honors

By Kathy Thompson,  
Information Assistant,  
Clearwater NF, Orofino, ID.



**CLEARWATER NF SUPERVISOR JIM CASWELL** presents a national Forest Service volunteer award to IDAWA teachers (left to right) Connie Saylor, Jane Kanzlarich and Linda Heffner. For the fourth year in a row IDAWA ("IOWANS-IN-IDAHO"), teachers spent two weeks of their summer vacation on the Lochsa Ranger District, rehabilitating eroded or overused sites in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Since 1994, sixty-two IDAWA volunteers have worked 2,725 hours in the S-B Wilderness.

Photo by Kathy Thompson.

**E**ight Iowa teachers waited at the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station on a hot August morning. They explored the old ranger station on U.S. Highway 12, east of Kooskia, Idaho, looked at pictures of past IDAWA (Iowans-in-Idaho) projects, and helped set out refreshments for the ceremony to be held in their honor.

The IDAWA teachers spent nearly two weeks of their summer vacation rehabilitating eroded or overused sites in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. They received a national award from the Forest Service for their volunteer work.

Clearwater National Forest Supervisor Jim Caswell presented each 1997 IDAWA participant a letter of congratulations from Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck and a Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness pin. He presented IDAWA project founder Connie Saylor a plaque citing the "considerable personal effort" of the group of professional educators "to establish a partnership with the State of Iowa Department of Education and the University of Northern Iowa promoting knowledge of land ethics and wilderness in the education community." The citation notes, "This 'hands-on' partnership program promotes wilderness and land ethic education, while accomplishing trail maintenance and site restoration in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness."

For the fourth summer in a row the IDAWA teachers have worked in the wilderness, clocking in a total of 2,725 hours of volunteer labor to date, by a total of 62 volunteers, in spite of a variety of work and weather conditions. From the drought of 1994, smoke from forest fires visible from their work site, to this summer, heavy vegetation and oversized insects surrounding them, they picked up axes, crosscut saws, pulaskis and pick mattocks and did the heavy "grunt" work of repairing trails and pulling noxious weeds and revegetating eroded and

compacted campsites.

These teachers take their wilderness experience back to Iowa, to their classrooms and community organizations and anyone they can think of to get across their call to action for wilderness-related projects. They believe in "the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness," so worded in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The IDAWA idea originated with Saylor, a wilderness ranger on the Clearwater National Forest in the summer, a professional educator formerly with the Iowa Department of Education and the University of Northern Iowa. She now teaches Spanish at Highland Schools in Craigmont, Idaho.

IDAWA came about after seven years of wilderness leadership training for educators in Iowa, a state with no congressionally designated wildernesses. IDAWA volunteers train and teach other educators in wilderness restoration, animal and fire ecology and how these sciences interact with patterns of wilderness use.

New teacher recruits join the project each year, participating alongside returning volunteers. They plan to develop environmental programs for students and lead student groups to national forest wildernesses.

IDAWA can serve as a model for teacher-teacher programs across the country, reaching elementary, high school and college educators and ultimately students and community leaders. Lochsa District Recreation Specialist Carol Hennessey says, "It is the ongoing hope of the program that wilderness education will be spread by educating students, and community citizens, as well as professional educators so that all will become educators of wilderness values." At the base of such values lies the Wilderness Act premise that wilderness is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man."

## "Mini" Introduction To Incident Command By Bitterroot N.F.

By Dixie L. Dies,  
Public Affairs Officer, Bitterroot NF.

**A**t the request of Ron Curley, Ravalli County Disaster & Emergency Coordinator, the Bitterroot NF presented a one-day, "mini" introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS) for more than 50 Ravalli County employees, Emergency Management System (EMS) providers, and members of several search and rescue organizations.

ICS-qualified Bitterroot National Forest employees developed a brief, four-hour ICS overview and then led the group through a four-hour, mock ICS exercise. Participants were divided into two, county ICS teams and walked through a flood scenario, utilizing the ICS organization, including initial planning, operations, logistics, finance, safety and information.

At the end of the training exercise, Curley and other participants said they felt the training was a good first-step in understanding how much coordination and communication was necessary during a countywide disaster, such as a flood.

Bitterroot NF employees involved in the training included Charlie Miller, Larry Russell, Herb Spradlin, Roylene Gaul, Dixie Dies, Tom Wagner, and Brooke Thompson.



**TRAINING PARTICIPANTS** listen to overview presentations from the Bitterroot NF ICS Team. Two members of the Forest training team are pictured standing in the back of the room (left to right): Herb Spradlin and Tom Wagner.

Photo by Dixie L. Dies.



# Helena Elementary Schools' Adopt-A-Species Program

Partnerships grow from understanding and respect.

By Amy Teegarden, RO Helena (MT) National Forest.

Through the Adopt-A-Species program, nearly 4,000 Helena (MT) elementary students and their teachers initiated a partnership with wildlife by studying different Montana wildlife species. The "Adopt-A-Species" program was started last year by the Helena National Forest with the Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and 13 Helena elementary schools.

Each school chose one species of Montana wildlife and spent the 1996 school year researching their "adopted" species: black-footed ferret, bald eagle, mountain goat, black bear, grizzly bear, mountain lion, bison, gray wolf, moose, bobcat, river otter, red-tailed hawk and the red fox.

The schools were provided reference materials, posters, speakers and story tellers, education trunks and associated materials and films. The various mediums allowed the students to learn about the benefit of the species to the ecosystem, their habitat requirements, the impacts of humans on the species, and the potential viability of the species.

The studies were complemented by presentations, field trips, a wildlife film festival and an art contest. Teachers were encouraged to incorporate the Adopt-A-Species programs and materials into their existing classroom curriculum.

In conjunction with studying their adopted species, the students competed in an art contest; winning entries were compiled into a 13-month calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales go to the construction of a new Wildlife Rehabilitation and Nature Center to be constructed adjacent to Spring Meadow Lake State Park in Helena. The center is a joint effort involving the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Helena National Forest and the Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals.

Throughout the 1997-1998 school year, Helena students will continue to strengthen their partnership with wildlife by becoming spokespersons for their adopted species. Through a guest, twice-a-month column, "Partners With Wildlife," in the HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD, the students will share with the newspaper's readers what

they've learned about their adopted species.

In addition, the Adopt-A-Species program hopes to expand into rural communities. Through a natural resource conservation education grant from the Forest Service, the program will be introduced in schools in Townsend, Lincoln, Elliston, Clancy and Montana City schools. Schools in these towns will have an opportunity to adopt a species and strengthen their partnership with wildlife.

This grass-roots program is a timely, educational opportunity for elementary children to learn about Montana wildlife, wildlife habitat and the crucial part wildlife plays in the balance of nature. Appreciation for the natural world and the species that share our planet is learned quickly when students are young and impressionable. Educating students about wildlife instills an appreciation for our natural world. It can be essential to them in the future, as they make critical decisions that affect our State, County and ultimately the world.

## 1.8-Million-Board-Foot Bent Flat Timber Sale Planned On Spotted Bear RD

District Ranger Carol Eckert, Hungry Horse, MT, has announced plans to offer the 1.8-million-board-foot Bent Flat II timbersale on the Spotted Bear Ranger District, Flathead National Forest.

Following the announcement, a 45-day appeal process started October 6. The planned timber harvest, in the drainages of three creeks, Bent, Flat and South, near the Spotted Bear River, will be put up for public bid, pending resolution of any public appeals that may be filed.

In the decision notice, Eckert explained the harvest will involve 163 acres of lodgepole pine and other species. The logging can be performed without new roads being built. A temporary road will be returned to near-natural conditions when the logging is completed. An additional 17 miles of existing roads will be reclaimed.

After the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed sale was published in July, a 30-day comment period drew just one letter, although two arrived after the comment period. Eckert said she considered the content of all three letters before she made her decision to proceed with the sale plan.

Habitat security for elk and other wildlife species, especially grizzly bears, will be increased through the reduction of the number of roads in the sale area included in the project.

## NORTH FORK RD REUNION



More than 100 people came to the reunion in June at the North Fork Ranger District, Orofino, ID, Clearwater National Forest. Former employees, who worked on the Canyon, Kelly, and Bungalow districts that now comprise the North Fork, came from as far away as Georgia, Florida and Alaska. Pictured above are four the attendees (left to right): Fred Fischer, now a contract specialist for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Coeur d'Alene, ID; North Fork District Ranger Art Bourassa, Orofino, ID; District Ranger Darcy Pederson, Clearwater RD, Grangeville, ID, Nez Perce National Forest; and Brian Hensley, North Fork RD forestry technician, also known as a "Jack of all trades." The reunion was originally scheduled for the summer of 1996 but was postponed because of storm damage and difficult access. Taking honors as the oldest attendees were Del Radtke and Arne Nousanen. Both had served on the Bungalow District. Photo by Jennifer Sundberg.

## Ravalli County Fair, Parade Honor Bitterroot NF

By Dixie Dies, Public Affairs Officer,  
Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton, MT

It's a beautiful, blue-sky, sun-shining Labor Day weekend in western Montana's Bitterroot Valley. What could be better?

How about complementing the day with the county fair parade through Hamilton? Add to that, the parade honoring not only the Bitterroot National Forest's centennial, but selecting a Forest Service retiree as parade grand marshal. That makes it just about perfect.

The Ravalli County Fair Parade honored the Bitterroot NF with the parade theme: "100 Years of Conservation, Multiple Use, and Recreation." In addition, Forest Service retirees Jim and Ruth Freeman were parade Grand Marshalls. Jim and Ruth set the example of community involvement by participating in the Chamber of Commerce, Bitter Root Resource Conservation and Development, Grassroots for Multiple Use and the Wildland Interface Task Force.

Dozens of parade entries reflected the multiple uses of the National Forests, comparing days of yesteryear and today. Many of the parade participants were either retirees or descendants of former Forest Service employees. Always a crowd-pleaser, the Northern Region Pack Train brought applause along the entire parade route.

Bitterroot NF Supervisor Steve Kelly summed up the day's activities when he said "The Bitterroot National Forest is proud of its history and heritage and we are honored for this recognition from our community."

## Laird Robinson Assigned To U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Regional Forester Hal Salwasser announced in October that Laird A. Robinson, special projects coordinator on the RO Public & Governmental Relations staff, has been assigned to work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot Ecosystem (Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, in Montana and Idaho).

Robinson will work out of an office in the RO (Missoula Federal Bldg.) Under the provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, Robinson will represent the Forest Service for two years as a core team member on the Environmental Impact Statement



**GRAND MARSHALLS** (center) Ruth and Jim Freeman, (left) Deb Price, supervisor's office, (far right) Hoot Gibson, retiree.



**RECREATION ON THE FOREST** (left to right) Rob McLeod, biking, supervisor's office, Curt McChesney, backpacking, West Fork Ranger District, Cathy Stewart and Ticha, biking, Stevensville Ranger District, Vickie Varnum, kayaking, supervisor's office.



**TRAPPER CREEK JOB CORPS** representing the 10 trades taught at the Center. Carrying the banner (left to right) Tony Blackwood and Samantha Kirkwood.

Photos by Dixie Dies...



**LAIRD ROBINSON**

team responsible for public outreach and public involvement. His mailing address remains unchanged (P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807) and he can be reached via DG (L.A.Robinson:R01A) and I.B.M. (larobinson/r1). Robinson says he is looking forward to his new assignment with the USF&WS.

## Flathead NF Safety Award To Tally Lake

By Allen Rowley, Public Affairs Specialist,  
Flathead National Forest.

As part of the Flathead National Forest safety program, each year the unit and crews with the best safety programs and safety records is presented the Forest's annual safety award.

The Tally Lake Ranger District has been recognized as the 1997 unit on the Flathead NF with the best safety program and the best safety record on the Forest to prove it. For the second year in a row, there have been no chargeable personal injury accidents and no motor vehicle accidents on the District.

This outstanding safety record was accomplished while planning and selling a 34-million-board-foot timber sale program, planting and precommercially thinning more than 1,000 acres, administering a ski area expansion project, and spraying more than 3,000 acres to control tansy ragwort. This total District effort included many other projects, part of the total effort included more than 140,000 miles of driving, some into a winter logging sale area, without a single accident.

In addition, the Forest recognizes the crews and first line supervisors with the best safety program and record from each unit. The work ranged from field inventory work on slopes up to 80%, to tandem packing 12-foot-long timbers on mules, to managing a helicopter on a daily basis, flying people, equipment and supplies to remote work locations, all without an accident. The following crews completed the year without a single accident on their respective crews:

**SWAN LAKE RD, STAND EXAM CREW**, Jerry Sass, supervisor; crew members: John Day, Karen Goode, Astrid Ensign, Tammy Theis, Tara McDonald. **SPOTTED BEAR RD, PACKING CREW**, Gordon Ash, supervisor; crew members: Gene Brash, Bill Workman, Larry Schutz, Gail Workman. **HUNGRY HORSE RD, PACKING CREW**, Fred Flint & Kraig Lang, supervisors; crew members: John MacLeod, Gene Brash, Bill Workman, Bob Kiebler. **GLACIER VIEW RD, RIVER MANAGEMENT CREW**, Supervisor Laurie Fisher. **TALLY LAKE RD, WEED CONTROL CREW**, Terry Carter, supervisor; crew members: Ron Shafer, Jay Makela, Steve Engel. **SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE, Fire Management, Helicopter Module**, Supervisor Marilyn Johnson; crew members: Van Davis, Tom Otter, Ernie Gasparovich. **SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE, Inventory Service Center, Beaverhead Inventory Crew**, Supervisors Monica Gaylord, Sheila Evans, Tom Mull, Durae Daniels and Jeff Holliday; crew members: Amy Foster, Kara Tanner, Greg Grossi, and Chad Walker.

In addition, a special act award for extra effort in the Forest Safety Program including participation in the Regional Health & Safety Leadership Team, was presented to Ted Richardson, Swan Lake Ranger District.



# Decline of Whitebark Leads To Seed Gathering On Gallatin, Flathead

By Laurie Lemieux, Supervisory Forest Technician,  
Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, MT.



**T**he loss of whitebark pine trees is a growing concern on the National Forests of the Northern Region.

This once-abundant tree provides an important food source for wildlife. Bears once ate whitebark seeds. Bears have now turned to other food sources such as huckleberries, grasses, and ants. The Clark's nutcracker and red squirrel also rely on the whitebark pine for food.

Whitepine blister rust, a fungus that attacks this and other five-needle pines, first girdles the branches and then moves to the bole, eventually killing the tree. It is a slow process. Blister rust takes up the nutrients needed by the whitebark. The result is the tree produces poorer cone crops.

The whitebark pine regenerates with help from the Clark's nutcracker. This large bird collects whitebark seeds, as many as 150 at a time, and buries them in caches. The nutcracker prefers to cache whitebark seeds in freshly-burned areas. Aggressive fire suppression and blister rust infestations are reducing the number of whitebark pine trees.

The Flathead National Forest is making an effort to reverse this decline. The Hungry Horse Ranger District has completed a number of whitebark surveys and now plans prescribed burns for thousands of acres in the Hungry Horse RD's Logan Creek drainage, in the Dean Ridge area on the Spotted Bear RD and the North Fork drainage of the Flathead River. A key objective of these multi-purpose burns is to provide cache sites so the Clark's nutcracker can be more effective in regenerating the whitebark pine.

This year a unique opportunity presented itself and the Flathead National Forest collected cones on the Talley Lake RD for the first time.

Seed collection presents a number of challenges. The most challenging is the fact the whitebark pines have infrequent cone crops. They do not produce cones every year, only every three to five years. Weather and pollination affect the viability of the seeds. Then there is the dilemma of access. Whitebark

usually grow in high elevational areas where there are few roads. And then, too, the Clark's nutcracker competes for the seeds.

Some of these factors were mitigated with the discovery of a whitebark stand on Big Mountain, near Whitefish, MT. Though crews still compete with the nutcracker, roads and ski lifts provide easy access. In August crews placed wire mesh over the tips of the branches to protect the cones from the nutcracker. The bird can clear a tree of its cones before the seeds develop enough for the crews to harvest. Crews carefully monitored the stand.

Seeds are harvested from trees that do not display signs of blister rust, the main cause of mortality. While blister rust can travel from tree to tree, it needs a host to move around. Ribes, the alternate host for blister rust, has not been found in the area of the Big Mountain stand.

After the whitebark cones are collected, they are sent to the Forest Service tree nursery in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. To assure regeneration, the seeds are tested for germination; provinance (genetic reflection of tree's growing site and conditions: elevation, aspect, soils, moisture, etc.); and outplanting in burned area.

The Flathead NF is the second R-1 National Forest collecting whitebark cones. The Gallatin NF began collecting cones in 1990.

Whitebark is not a commercial species. When plans were developed to start growing whitebark, the Coeur d'Alene nursery had to overcome several obstacles. The nursery is continuously improving their methods. The Flathead NF has learned a great deal about the whitebark and hopes to supply more information in overcoming these obstacles. The Gallatin NF achieved an 98% survival rate for trees outplanted in 1993.

Seeds are now being studied in an effort to develop blister-rust-resistant trees for outplanting to restore the whitebark in the National Forests of the Northern Region.

## Bruce Anderson Receives Wilderness Management Award

By Laura Smith, Public Affairs, Nez Perce NF,  
Grangeville, Idaho.

Bruce Anderson, Resource Assistant, Salmon River Ranger District, White Bird, ID, Nez Perce National Forest, recently received the Bob Marshall Award as Individual Champion of Wilderness Management.



**BRUCE ANDERSON**

Norm Ando, Resource Assistant, North Fork (Idaho) Ranger District, Salmon/Challis National Forest, also received the Bob Marshall Award.

This Intermountain Regional Wilderness Award was presented by Regional Forester Dale Bosworth.

Anderson and Ando received the award for outstanding river management of the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon River. During the past two years they have been integral parts of the planning for the Frank Church-River of No Return (FC-RONR) Wilderness Plan revision in addition to their managerial responsibilities for the Main and Middle Forks of the Salmon River.

As the river recreation specialist for the FC-RONR Wilderness Interdisciplinary Team, Norm Ando has completed one of the most thorough and comprehensive analysis for the selection of a preferred alternative for protecting these rivers in the future. Likewise, Anderson has successfully evaluated alternative strategies for managing noxious weeds using the most current regional and local information. Both the analysis and the evaluation of alternative strategies are excellent examples of wilderness stewardship in practice.

Anyone who has worked on a ranger district knows the demands on an assistant ranger program manager. Over the past two years, Anderson has successfully managed both jobs: FC-RONR river recreation specialist and resource assistant. He exemplifies the hard working and sound professional Forest Service employee who goes the extra mile. And in this case he is the winner!



# Cooperative Management Involves Forest Service And Private Landowners

By Kathleen Thompson, Information Assistant, Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho



**RICK KUSICKO** (left), Pierce RD timber management assistant, on a tour in the Jim Brown Creek watershed,

**B**ased on the simple concept of neighborly cooperation, four people representing landowners and managers in a 19,000-acre watershed in north central Idaho are working together on a steering committee for the Jim Brown Creek Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) project.

Pierce (Idaho) District Ranger Doug Gober, Clearwater NF, represents the Forest Service. Thirteen percent of the land in the watershed is managed by the Forest Service. A forester for Potlatch Corporation, which owns 58% of the land, represents the corporation.

Private landowners own 4% of the land. A man whose roots run deep in the area represents these private landowners. A manager for the Idaho Department of Lands, with responsibility for 25% of the land in the watershed, represents the state agency on the steering committee.

The Jim Brown Creek CRM was formed three years ago. When a few landowners and managers took a look at the watershed, part of the Clearwater River, they found water quality problems created by past and current land uses. CRM efforts are focusing on gradually remedying the two main problems in the watershed, excessive sedimentation and high water temperatures.

Last fall, the landowners, managers and agencies viewed a number of projects designed to lessen water quality problems.

They viewed a State timber sale road reconstruction/new construction project on a Potlatch Corporation road that winds to the sale area. The area is scheduled to be logged next year. Preparing the road now puts prevention at the forefront of the project. It includes culverts, rip rap, mulching and seeding disturbed ground. Construction stopped when the sunny, dry weather ended. Workers cross-ditched the road on their way out, mounding dirt strips across the road to divert runoff. The road was gated to keep vehicles out.

Visiting other sites, the group asked questions of each other and offered suggestions from their own experience. On Potlatch lands they viewed an area where there had been no access restrictions prior to 1991. Now gates are in place and remain closed. Today thousands of lodgepole pine seedlings are growing as much as a foot a year, the roads have been rocked and the sedimentation rate is down dramatically.

At another viewing area on part of a 22,000-acre range allotment, salt blocks have been placed strategically to keep cattle out of sensitive areas, and fences keep the cattle out of newly-planted trees. The allotment is for 325 cow-calf pairs; it includes Potlatch Corporation, National Forest lands and lands managed by the Idaho Department of Lands.

On National Forest lands, the group of co-operators viewed part of an ecosystem man-

agement project that includes plans for a 1,200-acre timber sale.

"We'll be doing everything possible and then some to protect water quality in the headwaters [of the Jim Brown Creek watershed]," Gober explained.

Final stop for the group was on private land where the landowner participated in a water quality project for three years, erecting four livestock access ramps to limit the grazing impact on Jim Brown Creek.

University of Idaho scientists, after visiting the watershed in the summer of 1997, report Brown Creek is cleaning itself. They say it is healing. It is meandering and the stream channel is narrowing and deepening. Insects and vegetation confirm it is a healthy stream.

Landowners and land managers are pleased with the slow but gradual improvement in the Brown Creek watershed. Their cooperative work, in a coordinated resource management approach, benefits all of the landowners and land managers—and helps the resources.

## Dan Dallas Is Ranger For Newport (WA) R.D.

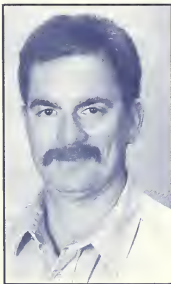
Dan Dallas, Sheridan, MT, staff officer for range, watershed and fisheries, Madison Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, has been appointed district ranger for the Newport (WA) Ranger District, Colville National Forest. He reported to his new assignment in August.

Dallas holds a bachelor of science degree (1984) and master of science degree (1987) in range management

from the University of Idaho.

After working as a range technician for the Yakama Indian Nation (1983-1984), and as a range and soil conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (1987-1990), Fairfield, Idaho, he accepted an appointment with the Forest Service in 1989 as a minerals management specialist/environmental coordinator on the Mountain City (NV) Ranger District, Humboldt National Forest.

He moved to the Sheridan (MT) Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, in 1992 and served as acting district ranger for the Philipsburg (MT) Ranger District in 1996. Since then he has worked in a dual role as a district conservationist and resource staff officer for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Harry D. Shryock**

**HARRY D. SHRYOCK**, 89, died October 18 in Superior, MT. Born and educated in Superior, Shryock started to work for the Forest Service in the early 1930s. He worked for 10 years in logging in Hamilton and returned to work for the Forest Service in Missoula in the late 1940s. He retired from the Forest Service in Superior in 1969.

# Nez Perce Trail Foundation Meets In Missoula, Aug. 7-9

By Dan Gard, RO Recreation, Minerals, Lands, Heritage & Wilderness

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail Foundation, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Nez Perce National Historical Park joined in presenting a three-day series of meetings and workshops August 7-9 in Missoula.

Federal, State, and Tribal officials and the general public met to enhance awareness, appreciation and understanding of the unique historical and cultural significance of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT).

Nez Perce Elder Horace Axtell opened the three-day meeting with a traditional Native American prayer and tribal representatives welcomed those attending the conference.

Special guests and speakers included Northern Regional Forester Hal Salwasser; Frank Walker, superintendent of the Nez Perce National Historical Park; Missoula Mayor Mike Kadas; Nez Perce Tribal Chairman Sam Penny; Joanne Leith of the Joseph Band Council; Umatilla Tribal Council Chairman Antone Minthorn; Steve Russell, president of the NPNHT Foundation; Steve Elkinton, National Trails System; and Pat Williams, University of Montana professor and former Montana congressman.

The workshops provided information on topics ranging from creation of local trail chapters to events and activities associated with the upcoming Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. Panelists provided a wide range of expertise and information on a variety of topics about the Nez Perce people, their history and culture, and associated elements of western history.

Conference attendees visited local sites associated with the Nez Perce trek of 1877: Howard Creek, Fort Fizzle, Fort Owen, and St. Mary's Mission.

Andy Kulla, resource forester, Lolo National Forest, discussed the historical interpretations at Fort Fizzle, including the reconstructed breastworks of the type used by the Army in their unsuccessful attempt to halt the Nez Perce near Lolo Creek. Attendees walked a portion of the Lolo Trail the Nez Perce followed as they descended Lolo Pass on their way to the Bitterroot Valley. Len McCann, dressed in cavalry regalia of the 1870s, met the group on the trail and explained the life of a 19th century soldier in the American West.

After a stop at Fort Owen, the group visited St. Mary's Mission in Stevensville, where Lucyle Evans and her staff conducted tours of the site and served a picnic dinner.

Foundation members created a 12-member board of directors and elected new officers: Carla HighEagle, Lapwai, ID, president; Jo Hallem, Sublimity, OR, vice presi-

dent; Brian McCormack, Lapwai, ID, secretary; and B.J. Hultz, West Yellowstone, MT, treasurer.

Harry Fritz, University of Montana history professor and former Foundation president, conducted a fund-raising raffle and auction at the Foundation banquet. Cheryl Wilfong, author of "Following the Nez Perce Trail", delivered the keynote address.

On the closing day, the attendees participated in commemorative activities at the Big Hole Battlefield, marking the 120th anniversary of the Battle of Big Hole.

## Nez Perce Tribe Honors Cheryl Vanderburg At Big Hole Program



CHERYL A. VANDERBURG

During the 120th anniversary program at the Big Hole National Battlefield, August 9, near Wisdom, MT, the Nez Perce Tribe honored five individuals for their dedication and contributions to the Nez Perce people.

Four Nez Perce Tribal members were honored: Horace Axtell, Mike Penny, Wilford Scott and Rosa Yearout.

Cheryl Vanderburg, Public Affairs Specialist, Lolo National Forest, was also honored. She is a member of the Salish-Kootenai Tribes.

The five were recognized and honored during the Empty Saddle Ceremony at the Big Hole Battlefield. It is a ceremony to honor those who lost their lives in the battle of 1877 in the Big Hole. Those recognized in the Empty Saddle Ceremony were honored by Nez Perce elders, the tribal council and tribal program directors. Each honoree was presented a Pendleton blanket.

Vanderburg was honored in recognition of her contributions to the Cultural Resources and Young Horseman Programs. Rudy Shebala, director of the Nez Perce Young Horseman Program, praised Vanderburg's contributions and her representation of the Nez Perce Nez Perce people and her work with the staff and students of the Young Horseman Program.

## R-1 Retiree Writes Of Dakota Grasslands

Bernard (Bernie) Alt, R-1 retiree now living in Kalispell, MT, wrote recently after reading the article in the July issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS about the celebration in May at the National Grasslands Visitor Center, Walls, S.D., marking the anniversary of the Forest Service's 20 National Grasslands.

"I was pleased to read the article about the Forest Service marking the anniversary of the National Grasslands," Alt wrote. "As an old grasslander, I think it is important that the National Grasslands receive recognition."

Alt retired in 1980 after 32 years of federal service. A native of Letcher, S.D., he joined the Soil Conservation Service in 1950. He transferred to the Forest Service in 1953 and served as a range conservationist and range manager on the Lewis & Clark NF. After serving as district ranger on the Sioux and Medora district on the Custer NF, Alt moved to the Deerlogue NF supervisor's staff, Butte, MT. From 1975 until he retired, Alt served as the Custer NF's North Dakota Coordinator, Bismarck, North Dakota.

"The lands did not become National Grasslands in 1937 and they were not managed by the Forest Service until 1953. They were originally called Land Utilization (LU) lands under the management of the Farm Security Administration and about 1939 they were managed by the Farm Home Administration in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"Then in 1941, the USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) took over and managed the lands until 1953. I believe the lands made their greatest improvement under the SCS because the SCS understood what had to be done to control erosion and make the lands fit for livestock grazing and keep the small farmers and ranchers in business."

The Forest Service took over the management of the National Grasslands in 1953. "It wasn't until the mid-1960s that the Forest Service brought these lands to their full potential, serving the needs for wildlife, livestock grazing, recreation and generally open space and vegetative diversification."

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



The most interesting display, perhaps, was the mass step test to show employees what would be needed to qualify for fireline duty.

It had been 5 years since Bitterroot National Forest employees had gathered for one event. The Forest Safety Committee wanted to put together an event that brought folks together and, at the same time, increased safety awareness. Their efforts were a success.



A house at a Gallatin National Forest Ranger Station in the 1920's. Can You name the Ranger Station? Look for the answer in the next issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS.

